

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05
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R 050250Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4014
INFO AMBASSY BANGKOK 78
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 3860

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, PORG, ASEAN, MY
SUBJECT: IDENTITY OF NEW ASEAN SECRETARIAT SEC GEN AND OTHER
RUMORED MFA/DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL CHANGES

REF: JAKARTA 5580

1. BASED ON OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH MFA CONTACTS IT APPEARS, AS NOTED REFTEL, THAT 52 YEAR OLD CAREER DIPLOMAT DATUK HAJI ALI BIN ABDULLAH, MFA DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS (AND FORMERLY SECRETARY GENERAL MALAYSIAN ASEAN NATIONAL SECRETARIAT) WILL BE GOM CHOICE FOR ASEAN SECRETARY GENERAL WHEN IT IS MALAYSIA'S TURN TO HOLD THAT POSITION.
2. ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMANTS, IN THE MEANTIME DATUK ALI WILL SERVE AS DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, REPLACING DATUK ZAINAL ABIDIN BIN MOHAMED YUSOF (WHO HAS BEEN POSTED TO OTTAWA). LOCAL PRESS MAY 4 CARRIED OFFICIAL MALAYSIAN WIRE SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT DATUK ALI HAS TAKEN OVER THE POLITICAL DEPY SEC GEN SLOT (ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT TO A U.S. UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE) AND WILL BE REPLACED AS ECONOMIC DEPY SEC GEN BY ALBERT
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S. "BERTIE" TALALLA, UNTIL RECENTLY MALAYSIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER IN CANADA.

3. OTHER RUMORED CHANGES HAVE RAZALI BIN ISMAIL, UNDERSECRETARY POLITICAL DIVISION ONE (WHOSE RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE U.S. AFFAIRS) BEING POSTED ABROAD, POSSIBLY AS AMBASSADOR TO TURKEY, AND BEING REPLACED BY AJIT SINGH CURRENTLY UNDERSECRETARY POLITICAL DIVISION

THREE (MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS AND MFA SPOKSEMAN).

4. SOME OF OUR MFA CONTACTS HAVE IMPLIED THAT A NUMBER OF SENIOR MALAYSIAN DIPLOMATIC ASSIGNMENTS ARE BEING HELD IN ABEYANCE UNTIL AFTER NATIONAL ELECTIONS, WIDELY EXPECTED TO BE HELD SOMETIME THIS SUMMER. (COMMENT: IN THE PAST, DIPLOMATIC POSTINGS HAVE BEEN USED AS FACE-SAVING ASSIGNMENTS FOR PARTY STALWARTS WHO HAVE LOST INTRA-PARTY POWER STRUGGLES OR OTHERWISE SUFFERED POLITICAL REVERSES, AND THIS PRACTICE MAY WELL BE CONTINUED.)
MILLER

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Message Attributes

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